

**REMARKS**

Claims 3, 4, 6-11 and 13-16 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 12 are canceled by way of this Amendment.

**Drawings**

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and indicate approval of the drawings filed April 23, 2001.

In addition, Applicants are amending Fig. 1 to correspond to the specification amendments provided herein. Specifically, the "Second Metalization Portion M2" and "First Metalization Portion M1" are being amended to --Second Metered Portion M2-- and --First Metered Portion M2--, respectively. Corrected Fig. 1 is attached herewith with the Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and indicate approval of Fig. 1 in the next response from the office.

**Claims**

Claims 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicants submit that the "metalization portion" is actually a --metered portion-- or a --plasticizing portion--. This inconsistency is a translation error. Regardless, one of ordinary skill in the art would have understood that the present invention is directed to such metering or plasticizing portions. The claims and specification have been amended to clarify this feature.

Claims 3-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants amend the claims to remove any ambiguities.

Claims 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Xu (6,322,347) in view of Fujita et al. (4,615,669).

Applicants note that the Examiner has not provided any prior art rejections to claims 10-16; thus, the Examiner is requested to indicate whether these claims contain patentable subject matter in the next Office Action.

### **Analysis**

Claim 3 is the only claim in independent form; therefore, the following discussion is initially directed to this independent claim.

Xu appears to disclose that the screw should be idle before the resin is injected. Col. 13, lines 20-25 teach that the screw is idle and then a plunger moves to inject the charge into the mold. On the other hand, claim 1 now recites that the “step of plasticizing” is performed until immediately before the step of injecting. Since the step of plasticizing involves rotation of the screw and Xu specifically teaches that the rotation is stopped, Xu fails to disclose this step of the claimed invention. Moreover, it appears that Fujita also discloses that the screw movement is stopped (see col. 4, lines 20-30) before injection. Thus, claim 1 is believed patentable.

The remaining rejections are directed to the dependent claims. These claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, by virtue of their dependency therefrom. Moreover, these claims are patentable due to their own recitations contained therein.

For example, claim 6 is patentable for similar reasons to claim 1 since the prior art does not teach or suggest that the screw is driven at low speeds even after the plasticizing of the resin has been completed.

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Also, for example, claim 7 is directed to controlling the screw movement according to the pressure in the screw cylinder. In particular, a controller is used in which a setting device is installed, so that pres-set values for the pressure in the screw cylinder are stored, so that the controller can automatically control the servomotor to drive the screw in a manner that maintains the pressure to at least a supercritical pressure. See pages 12-13. The prior art fails to teach or suggest this feature.

### Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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